Rakudai Kishi no Cavalry

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Taking
a small
break
THE NEWEST VOLUME OF THE TANKOUBON, VOLUME 7, IS SCHEDULED FOR SALE SEPT. 13TH!
落第騎士の英雄譚
キャバルリィ
A TALE OF WORST ONE
原作：海空りく
漫画：空路 恵
キャラクター原案：をん
Chapter 28: Father and Son
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IKKI'S INQUIRY CONTINUES...

IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THE IMPRISONMENT BEGAN.

INTERROGATION GOES FROM SIX IN THE MORNING TO ELEVEN AT NIGHT.

AND SELECTION BATTLE MATCHES ARE CONTINUING TOO.

I'M REALLY TIRED...

Haa...

I'M ONLY GIVEN ENOUGH WATER EVERY DAY TO STAY CONSCIOUS.

THE PLUMBING'S BROKEN IN THIS CELL TOO.

IT'S PLAIN HARASSMENT.

NOTHING TO DRINK TODAY EITHER...

BUT I CAN'T HELP LOSING ENERGY LIVING THIS WAY.

I GET A BIT OF WATER FROM PLACES LIKE THE WASHROOM WHILE GOING TO AND FROM THE INQUIRIES,

IT'S JUST ME HERE, SUR-ROUNDED BY ENEMIES.

IF I ENDURE THIS,

I'LL BE ABLE TO MEET THE KING OF VERMILLION SOONER OR LATER.

IT'LL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT OF MY LIFE.

I'LL HAVE STELLA'S FATHER APPROVE OF ME.

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JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES MY HEART POUND...!

SFX: BA-BUMP BA-BUMP

THIS BECAME UNAVOIDABLE THE MOMENT I FELL IN LOVE WITH STELLA VERMILLION.

BUT I CAN'T RUN AWAY.

ゾワ…
I GUESS I SHOULD WEAR A SUIT TO THE MEETING...?

PARTED ON THE SIDE?
MY HAIR ...

NO... HOW I CAN CONVEY MY SINCERITY IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN HOW I LOOK!
どガ!

DOESN'T REALLY WORK.
.....

ふわ…

LET'S PRACTICE A LITTLE...
I HAVE THE TIME ...

BUT...
IF I CAN'T STAND UP TO MY OWN IMAGINATION, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HANDLE THE PERSON HIMSELF.

WHAT A HEAVY PRESSURE!
JUST FROM IMAGIN-ING IT.

I PROBABLY CAN'T BLUFF MY WAY THROUGH IT.
I CAN ONLY APPEAL WITH TRUE EARNEST-NESS..

!

LET ME HAVE YOUR DAUGHTER!

PLEASE ...

I WOULD NEVER GIVE SHIZUKU TO YOU.

F-

F-F-F...

FATHERRR!?

"YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING, SO DON'T TRY."

HE'S TOO DISTANT, SO...

HE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY EXPECTATIONS—

WHY DID THIS PERSON...

COME SEE ME...

IKKI.

Y- YES!

—!

DO YOU LOVE SHIZUKU AS A WOMAN?

BUUU—

I SEE.
THAT'S FINE THEN.

WH...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'VE BEEN DOING WELL LATELY, HAVEN'T YOU?

I HEARD YOU'VE MANAGED SIXTEEN CONSECUTIVE WINS.
YOUR SELECTION BATTLE RESULTS.

YOU'VE DONE WELL.

...WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S SINCERE...

COULD IT BE... HE PRAISED ME?

WHAT DID HE... JUST NOW...

BUT... WHY IS IT...

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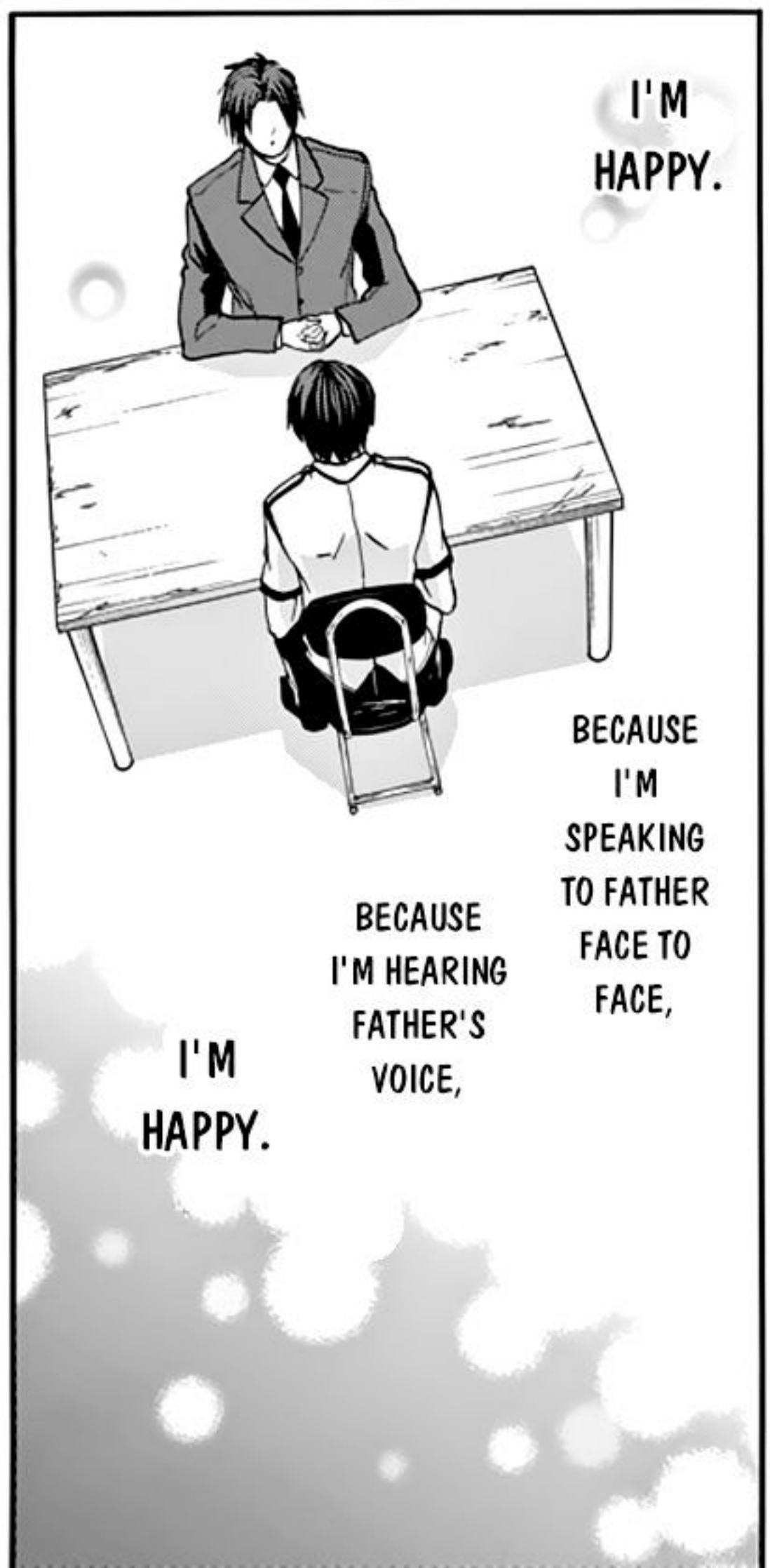
I SEE.

... THAT I'M SO HAPPY?


I'M HAPPY.
BECAUSE I'M SPEAKING TO FATHER FACE TO FACE,
BECAUSE I'M HEARING FATHER'S VOICE,
I'M HAPPY.

BUT FATHER CAME TO SEE ME... TO SPEAK TO ME, SO I'M HAPPY.

I KNOW HE HAD A HAND IN THIS INQUIRY... AND MY IMPRISON-MENT TOO.

MAYBE NOW...

I'M... NOT POWERLESS LIKE I WAS BEFORE.

I'M JUST F-RANK, BUT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO BEAT STRONG OPPONENTS IN THE PAST, AND I WON'T LOSE IN THE FUTURE EITHER.

I-I'VE BEEN WORKING... HARD.

I THINK I'LL BECOME STRONG ENOUGH TO NOT BE THE SHAME OF THE KUROGANE.

黒鉄

BY WORKING HARD, TRAINING...

S-

SO,

SO——

IF I CAN WIN THE SEVEN STARS SWORD-ART FESTIVAL...

THEN WILL YOU ACKNOW-LEDGE ME?

BUT NOW I FINALLY UNDER-STAND.

WHY YOU DRIFTED AWAY FROM ME.
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE OUT

...YEAH.

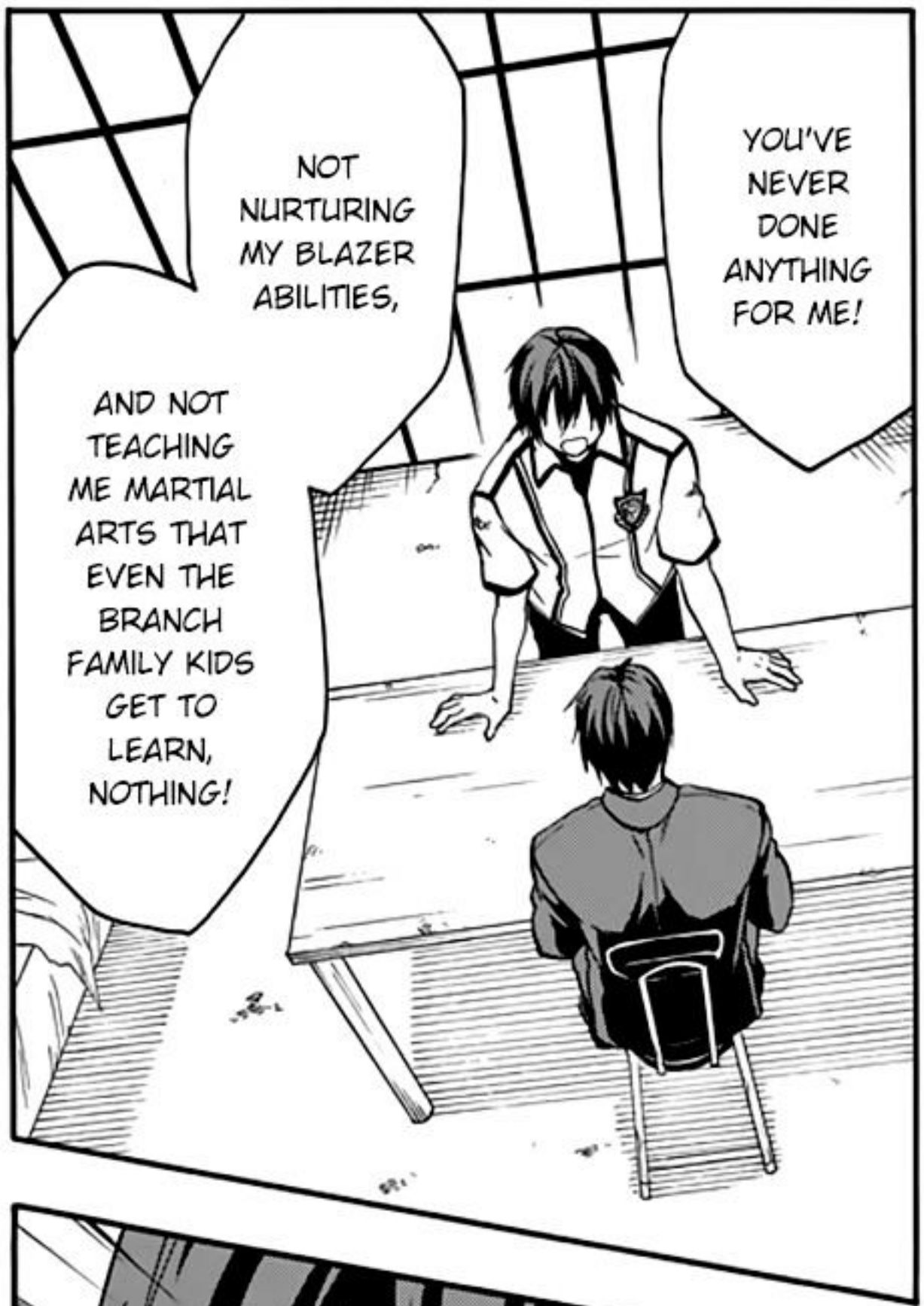
YOU THOUGHT
THAT I DIDN'T ACKNOWLEDGE YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE WEAK, AM I RIGHT?

HE... ACKNOWLEDGES ME?

I CERTAINLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS MY SON.

THEN YOU'VE MADE A GREAT MISTAKE.

...HUH?


NOT NURTURING MY BLAZER ABILITIES,
AND NOT TEACHING ME MARTIAL ARTS THAT EVEN THE BRANCH FAMILY KIDS GET TO LEARN, NOTHING!
YOU'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING FOR ME!

TH-
THAT'S A LIE!

IF YOU ACKNOWL-EDGE ME,
THEN WHY WASN'T I TREATED LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE!?

THAT'S THE ONLY REASON.

I DIDN'T TEACH YOU BECAUSE THERE WAS NO POINT.

BOTH TEACHING AND BEING TAUGHT ARE UTTERLY USELESS.

FOR SOMEONE WHO LACKS TALENT TO TRAIN HALF-FORMED SKILLS,

IT WOULD BE FINE ONLY ENDING AT FUTILITY.

...NO,

WHAT ...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS THE HALF-FORMED RESULT THAT COMES OF HALF-FORMED POWER.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE WAY YOU ARE NOW.

HAS BEEN A FAMILY THAT UNIFIES JAPAN'S BLAZERS.
SINCE THE ERA WHEN MAGE-KNIGHTS WERE CALLED SAMURAI, THE KUROGANE CLAN...

BUT BRINGING TOGETHER KNIGHTS WITH HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL POWERS INTO MUTUAL COOPERATION IS DIFFICULT.

WE HAVE A DUTY TO CONSOLIDATE THE KNIGHTS OF THIS COUNTRY.

TO ORGANIZE SUCH PEOPLE INTO A SINGLE SYSTEM,

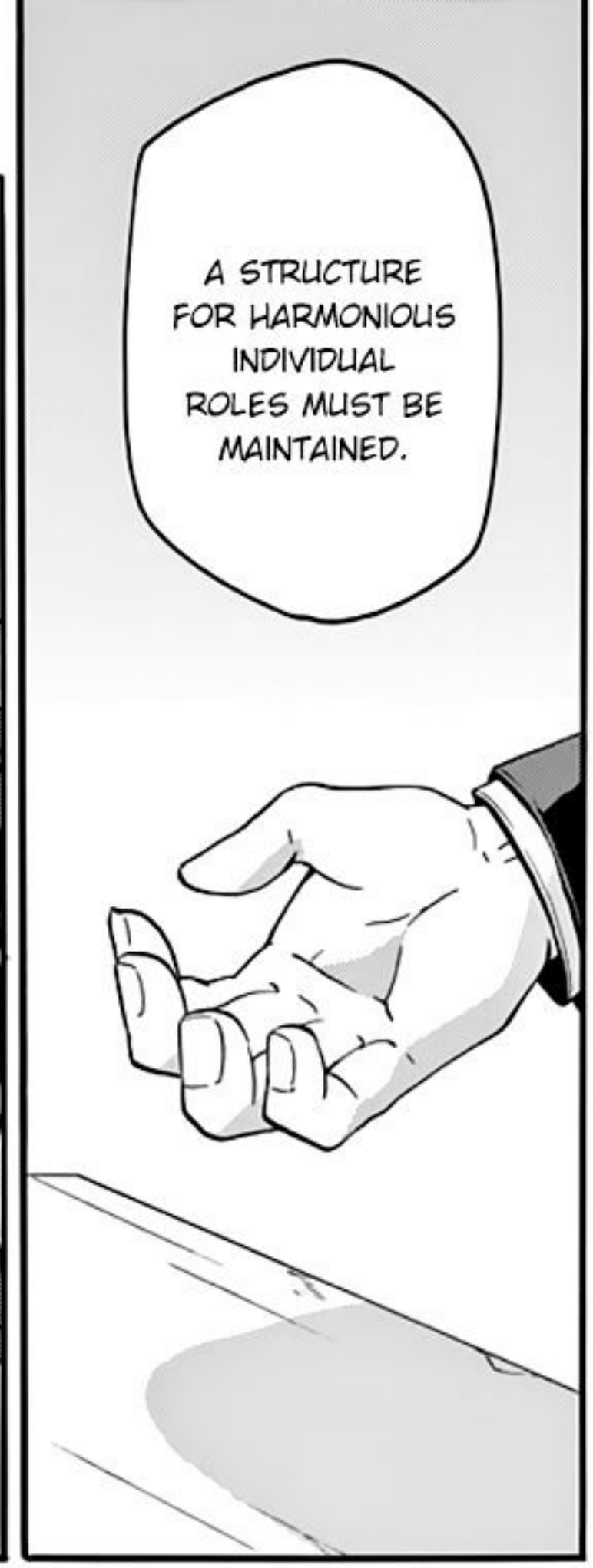
HIERARCHY IS PARAMOUNT.

A PUBLICLY VISIBLE HIERARCHY MUST BE ESTABLISHED,

Ikki Kurogane
RANK: F

AND EVERY ABILITY MUST BE APPROPRIATELY CLASSIFIED.

THIS IS IMPOR-TANT.
A MECHANISM ONLY WORKS PROPERLY WHEN EACH AND EVERY GEAR
OPERATES AS IT SHOULD.


A STRUCTURE FOR HARMONIOUS INDIVIDUAL ROLES MUST BE MAINTAINED.

"THEY SURPASS ME."
AS LONG AS THOSE BELOW THINK THIS, THEY WON'T DEVIATE FROM THEIR OWN NECESSARY DUTIES.
AND SO THOSE BELOW WILL LOOK TO THOSE ABOVE AND SAY,

THAT, IKKI, IS WHY

SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS HARMFUL TO THE SYSTEM.

WHEN SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING, SAYS TO HIMSELF "NO, I CAN",

BUT WHEN THE MAJORITY OF GEARS IN A MECHANISM BEHAVES SO,

OTHERS AT LOWER LEVELS THINK TO THEMSELVES THAT THEY MUST SHARE SUCH CAPACITY, AND DEVELOP UNPRODUCTIVE EXPECTATIONS.

IT ONLY LEADS TO WASTE.

AND IT IS WHY I SAID TO YOU THIS.
THAT IS WHY IT IS VERY RARE
FOR BLAZER RANK TO BE CORRECTED OR OVERTURRNED.
YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING,
SO DON'T TRY.

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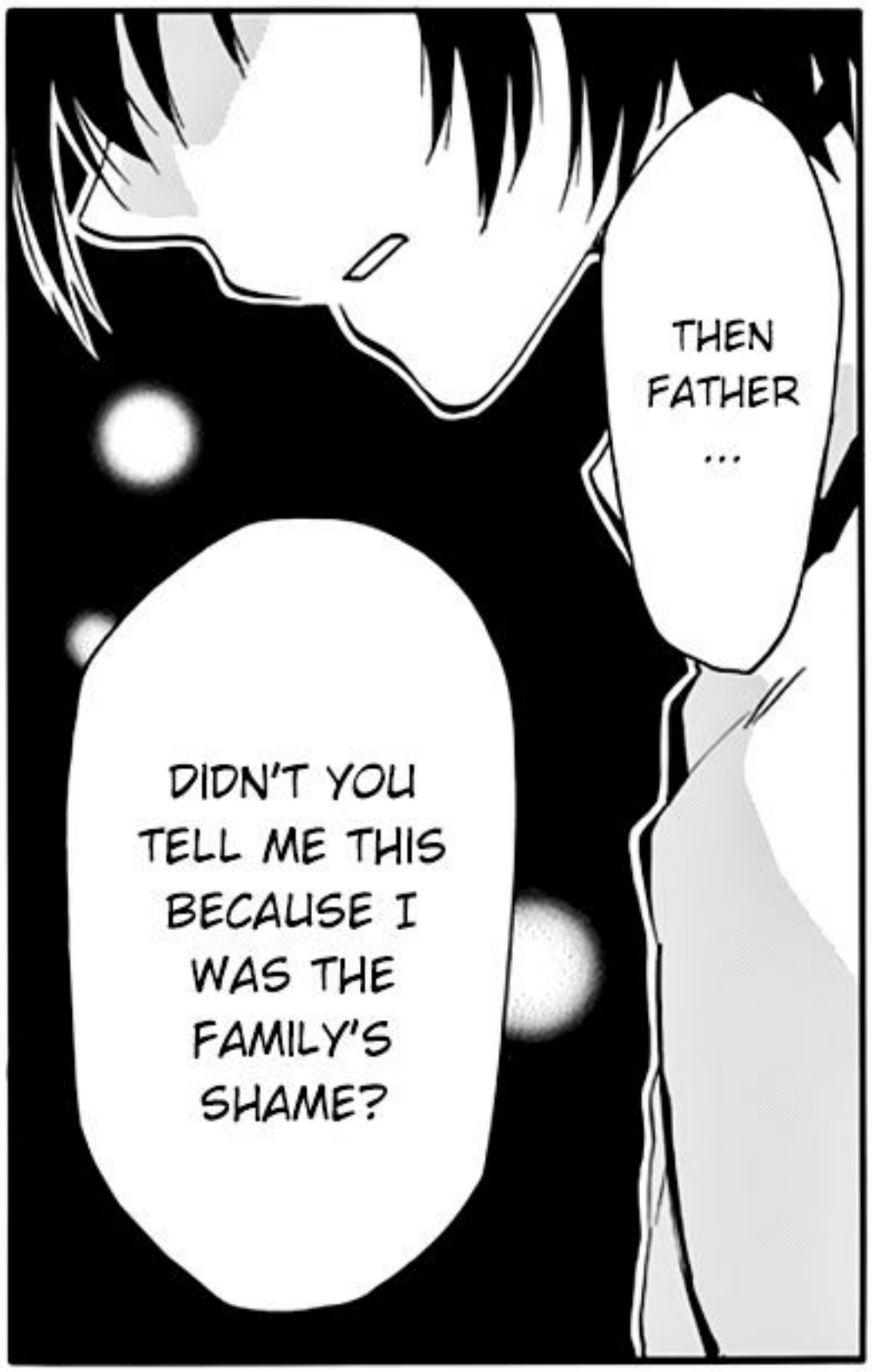
THEN FATHER ...
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS BECAUSE I WAS THE FAMILY'S SHAME?

WHETHER IT'S FOR THE FAMILY IS IRRELEVANT.
IT MATTERS LITTLE.

IKKI... YOU WANTED ME TO SAY I ACKNOWL-EDGE YOU, CORRECT?

IT IS THE DUTY OF THOSE WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO NOT TRY.

JUST AS IT IS THE KUROGANE'S DUTY TO MAINTAIN HARMONY BETWEEN KNIGHTS,

!

THEN CEASE BEING A KNIGHT THIS INSTANT.

BOTH NOW AND IN THE PAST, THAT IS ALL I'VE EVER WANTED FROM YOU.

YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING, SO DON'T TRY.

I HOPED IN MY HEART THAT ONE DAY I'D BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIM...

EVEN THOUGH MY OWN FATHER HATED ME...

IT WAS NEVER ABOUT HATE OR NOT HATE.

GOODWILL OR MALICE... I WAS AN IDIOT THINKING EITHER ONE PLAYED A PART IN THIS.

BUT FATHER DIDN'T HATE ME.

HE NEVER HAD ANY DESIRES

OR ANY FEELINGS TOWARDS ME AT ALL.

I WAS NO MORE THAN A PEBBLE ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

IS THAT ALL THIS WAS?

THEN WHAT

AM I TO THIS PERSON?

HMM...?

WHAT'S WRONG?

WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

THESE TEARS MEAN THAT...

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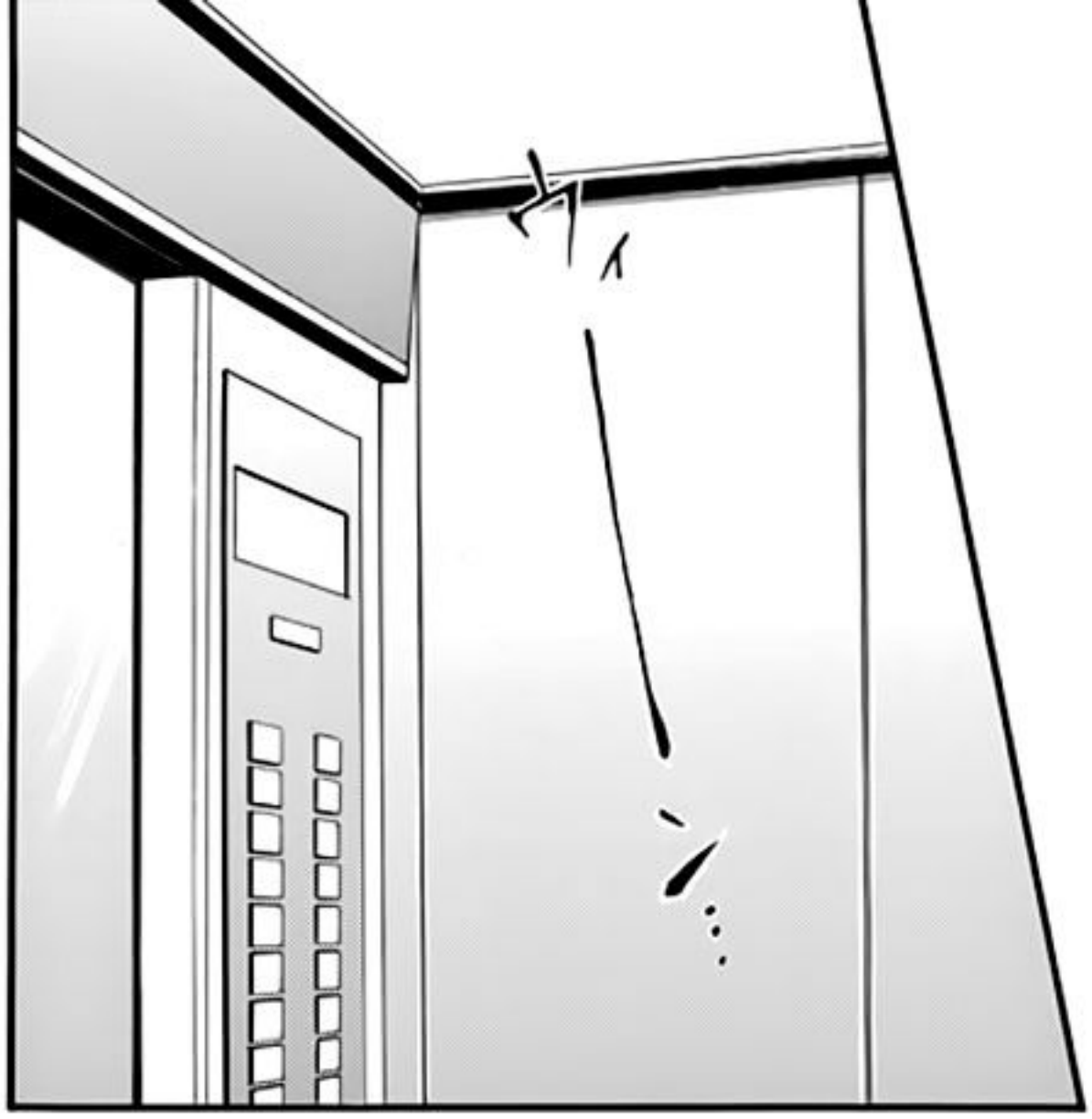
OH... I GET IT...

THE BOND BETWEEN US

IS FINALLY SEVERED...



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OOH, HELLO HELLO, CLAN LEADER.

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AS IMPENETRABLE AS EVER, THAT BOY.

THOUGH NOT AS MUCH AS HIS BROTHER.

AND HOW ARE THINGS NOW, WITH HIM?

YES.

I FULLY UNDERSTAND. HE HE HE.

I LEAVE THE REST OF THIS MATTER TO YOU.

USE WHATEVER METHODS YOU WISH.

GET IKKI EXPELLED. DO NOT FAIL ME.

...

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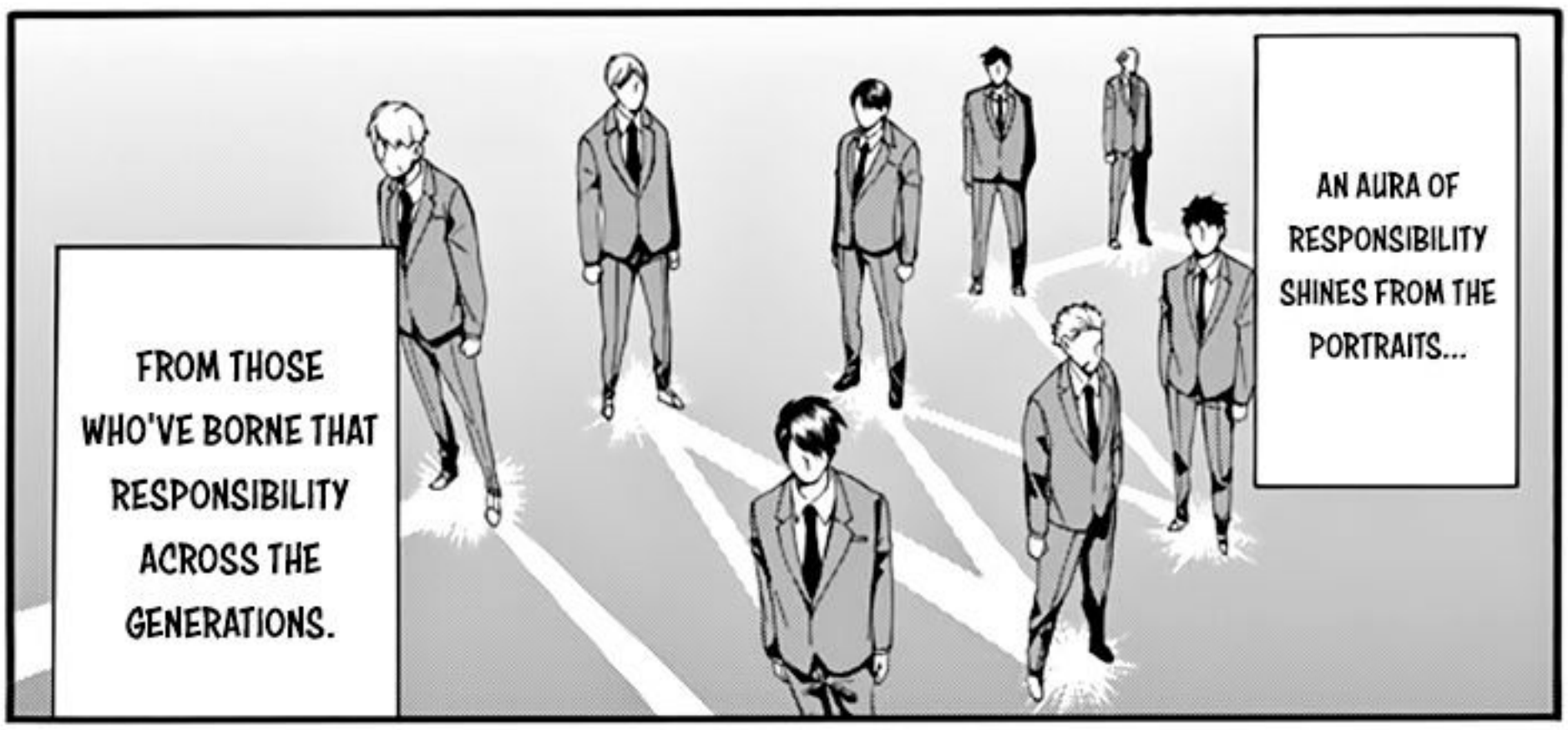
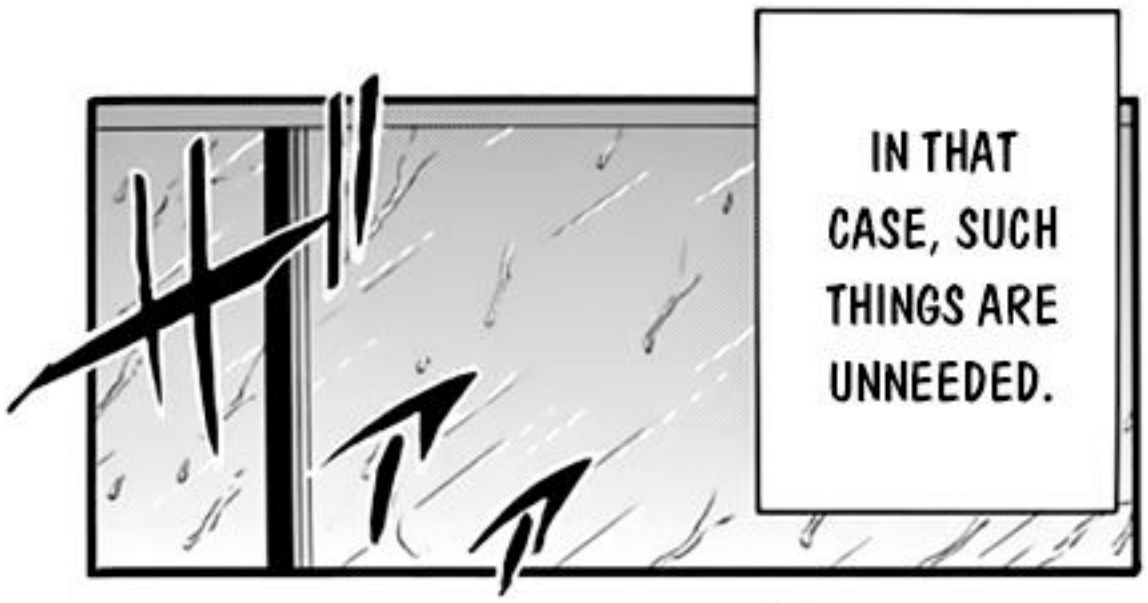
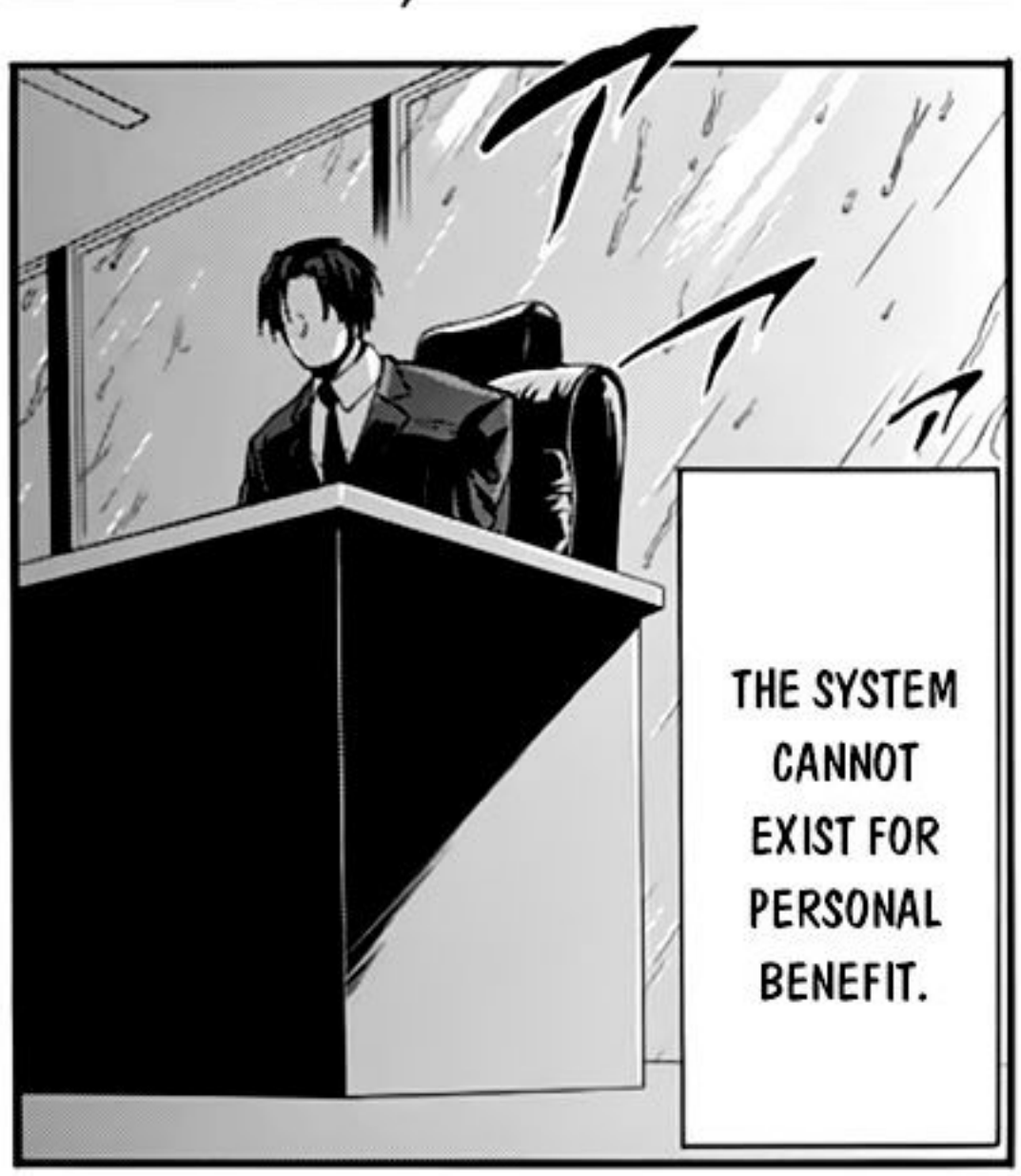
ACROSS THE HISTORY OF THIS DEPARTMENT,
MORE THAN HALF OF THE DIRECTORS HAVE HELD THE KUROGANE NAME.


FROM THOSE WHO'VE BORNE THAT RESPONSIBILITY ACROSS THE GENERATIONS.
AN AURA OF RESPONSIBILITY SHINES FROM THE PORTRAITS...

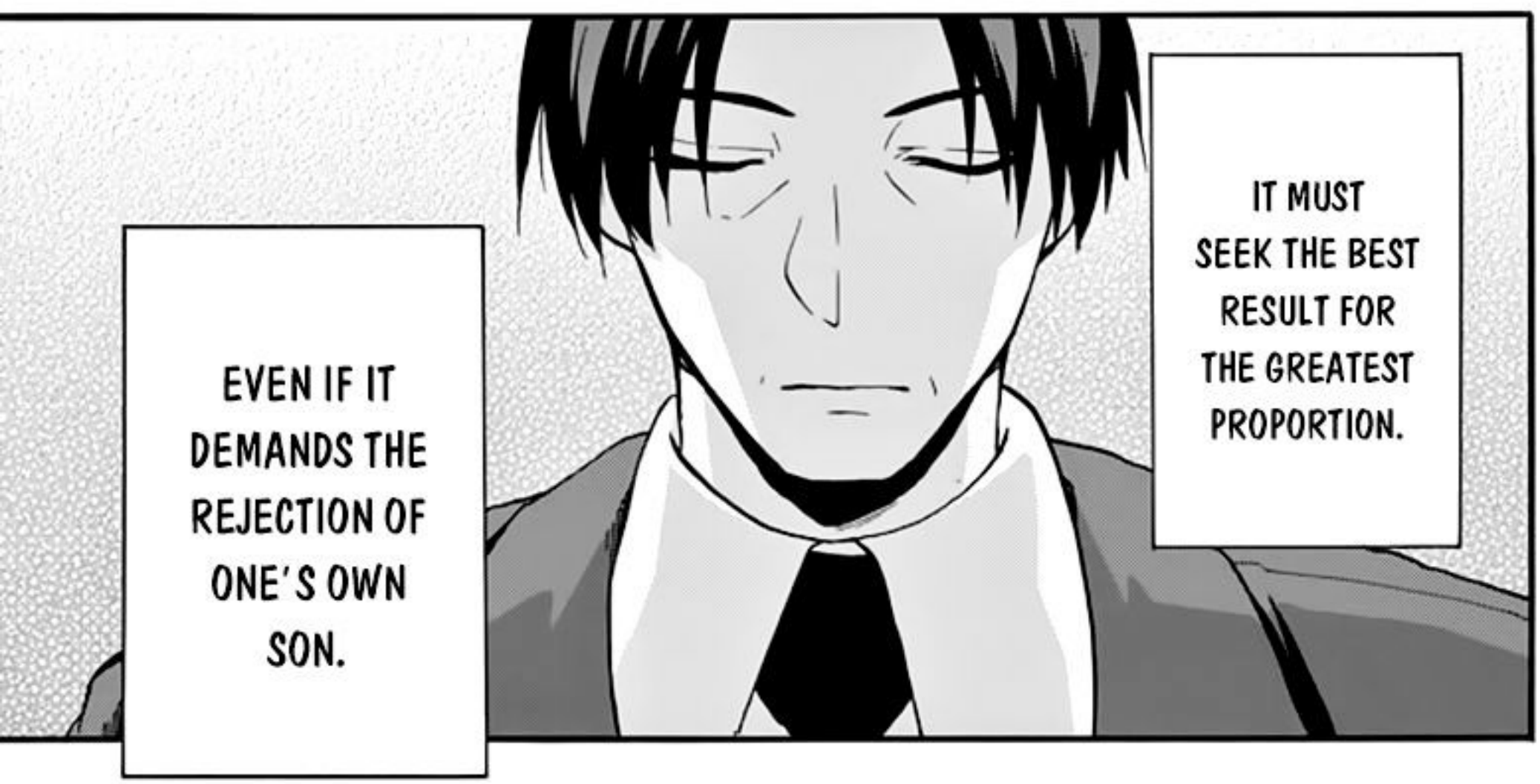
STAYING WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THEIR OWN ABILITIES.
MANY PEOPLE LIVE HAPPILY

THERE ARE SO FEW WHO CAN PUSH PAST THEIR OWN SHORTCOMINGS AS YOU DO.
IKKI,


IN THAT CASE, SUCH THINGS ARE UNNEEDED.


THE SYSTEM CANNOT EXIST FOR PERSONAL BENEFIT.

FUTILE ASPIRATIONS AND UNJUSTIFIED SELF-CONFIDENCE
BRING ONLY LOSS TO THOSE WHO HOLD THEM AND TO SOCIETY.


EVEN IF IT DEMANDS THE REJECTION OF ONE'S OWN SON.
IT MUST SEEK THE BEST RESULT FOR THE GREATEST PROPORTION.

THAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.

TO DEFEND THIS IRON-BOUND ORDER,

THE DIVIDE BETWEEN THEM, NOW BROUGHT INTO SHARP RELIEF, IS DARK AND DEEP INDEED—

TO BE CONTINUED